

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS	
<b>af</b> Artificial fill (Holocene)—Mine dump associated with open-pit iron or talc mines	Cbb Banded Mountain member—Banded gray and black dolomite and limestone with occasional chert nodules and oolitic dolomite layers or beds. The base of this member consists of thin-bedded grayish orange silty limestone, dolomite, and shale. The shale contains Middle Cambrian <i>Elymanii</i> and <i>Lingulella</i> trilobites in the Nopah Range (Hazzard, 1937). The remainder of the Banded Mountain member is Late and Middle Cambrian in age (Burchfiel and others, 1982).
<b>ag</b> Agriculture areas (Holocene)	Cbp Pappose Lake member—Massive dark gray mottled dolomite limestone with occasional thin clayey and sandy limestone beds
<b>as</b> Alluvium (Holocene)—Unconsolidated sand and gravel in stream and fan deposits	Cb Undivided Bonanza King Formation
<b>ca</b> Eolian sand (Holocene)	Cc Carrara Formation (Middle and Early Cambrian)—Thin- to medium-bedded limestone, limy mudstone, and shale interbedded with silty and/or calcareous shale. The limestone is generally laminated and locally oolitic; the shale includes micaceous sand or silt lenses and minor quartzite. Regional isopach patterns suggest that the Carrara Formation is 296 m thick in the Kingston Range (Palmer and Halley, 1979). Palmer and Halley reported that the Carrara Formation contains early Middle Cambrian and late Early Cambrian trilobites including <i>Olenellus</i> , <i>Aberia</i> , and fragments of <i>Glossopora</i> . The Carrara Formation is informally divided into the upper, middle, and lower members northeast of VADM Mesquite
<b>cd</b> Older alluvium (Pleistocene)—Elevated and dissected alluvium including fanlomerate, talus, and stream terrace deposits. Oldest fanlomerate deposits may be synchronous with fanlomerate facies of the China Ranch beds	Ccu Upper member—Orange weathered silty limestone and calcareous siltstone with a basal gray limestone marker bed. The percentage of limestone increases upsection. The basal gray limestone is probably equivalent to the Red Pass Limestone member of Palmer and Halley (1979); the overlying calcareous siltstone and limestone are probably equivalent to the Palmung Hills Shale, Jungle Limestone, and Desert Range Limestone members
<b>cp</b> Plays deposits (Pleistocene)—Elevated and dissected horizontal silt, mud, and sand beds that interfinger with older alluvium. R.E. Reynolds (personal commun., 1985) reported investigation to Hancockdarea (0.1–1.5 Ma; Bergren and others, 1985) camel, horse, and mammoth fauna in plays deposits along the southeastern edge of the map. Plays deposits in California Valley were mapped as upper Pleistocene lacustrine siltstone by Wright (1974)	Ccm Middle member—Dark maroon shale and siltstone. Probably equivalent to the Pyramid Shale member of Palmer and Halley (1979)
<b>tlc</b> Fanlomerate facies of the China Ranch beds (upper Miocene)—Boulder and cobble conglomerate with clasts derived from Tertiary and older rocks including megabreccia clasts from the Crystal Spring Formation (Tic), Kingston Peak Formation (Tks), diabase (Tdc), and volcanic rocks in Kingston Wash (Tvw). This is the oldest Tertiary formation to contain clasts of the granite of Kingston Peak. Mapped by Wright (1954) in the western Alexander Hills as the fanlomerate lithofacies of the upper Miocene (Scott, 1985) China Ranch beds of Mason (1948)	Ccl Lower member—Gray and green silty shale and orange weathered silty limestone that contains pisolites. Probably equivalent to the Eagle Mountain, Echo Shale, and Gold Ace Limestone members of Palmer and Halley (1979)
<b>tlv</b> Volcanic rocks—Basaltic to rhyodacite breccia well as basaltic andesite, andesite porphyry, and rhyodacite flows. An andesite porphyry flow within this unit is characterized by a well-developed magmatic foliation, expressed by plagioclase phenocrysts up to 4 mm long, and by pillow structures near its contact with lacustrine deposits. Biotite from this flow yields an anomalous K-Ar age of 13.9 Ma (Bell, 1971). Plagioclase from rhyodacite breccia near the base of this unit yields a K-Ar age of 13.8 Ma (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988)	Cz Zabrickie Quartzite (Early Cambrian)—Pale red purple to gray very fine- to medium-grained quartz arenite overlain by red shale and laminated siltstone. The quartz arenite is cross bedded and includes granules and rounded cobbles of red chert and white quartz. The top of this formation consists of gray fine- to medium-grained quartz sandstone with poorly developed ripple marks and trough cross bedding. Vertical <i>Scollitius</i> tubes are locally developed in the lowest sandstone bed and at the top of this formation. The Zabrickie Quartzite is 42 and 23 m thick in the northern and eastern Kingston Range, respectively (Prave, 1984)
<b>tlw</b> Lacustrine rocks—Sandstone with laminated mudstone and siltstone interbeds, tuffaceous mudstone, and limestone	Czm Middle member—Basal cross-bedded arkosic quartz pebble conglomerate, cross bedded coarse-grained feldspathic quartzite, and medium-grained arkosic to feldspathic sandstone capped by massive maroon and purplish red siltstone. <i>Scollitius</i> tubes are common near the top of this member
<b>tlxv</b> Volcanic rocks—Basaltic to rhyodacite breccia well as basaltic andesite, andesite porphyry, and rhyodacite flows. An andesite porphyry flow within this unit is characterized by a well-developed magmatic foliation, expressed by plagioclase phenocrysts up to 4 mm long, and by pillow structures near its contact with lacustrine deposits. Biotite from this flow yields an anomalous K-Ar age of 13.9 Ma (Bell, 1971). Plagioclase from rhyodacite breccia near the base of this unit yields a K-Ar age of 13.8 Ma (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988)	Czwl Lower member—Massive and cross bedded medium- to fine-grained silica cemented sandstone overlain by medium- to very fine-crystalline dolomite. Horodyski (1992) and Horodyski and others (1994) described Early Cambrian trace fossils and Late Proterozoic megafossils from this member in southern Nevada and concluded that the Cambrian-Precambrian boundary occurs within the lower member of the Wood Canyon Formation
<b>tlxw</b> Sedimentary rocks—Lacustrine mudstone, tuffaceous siltstone, sandstone, and discontinuous limestone lenses	Czwm Middle member—Basal cross-bedded arkosic quartz pebble conglomerate overlain by cycle sequences of very coarse-grained quartzite sandstone or pebbly conglomerate, cross bedded coarse-grained feldspathic quartzite, and medium-grained arkosic to feldspathic sandstone capped by massive maroon and purplish red siltstone. <i>Scollitius</i> tubes are common near the top of this member
<b>tlxv</b> Volcanic rocks—Basaltic to rhyodacite breccia well as basaltic andesite, andesite porphyry, and rhyodacite flows. An andesite porphyry flow within this unit is characterized by a well-developed magmatic foliation, expressed by plagioclase phenocrysts up to 4 mm long, and by pillow structures near its contact with lacustrine deposits. Biotite from this flow yields an anomalous K-Ar age of 13.9 Ma (Bell, 1971). Plagioclase from rhyodacite breccia near the base of this unit yields a K-Ar age of 13.8 Ma (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988)	Czwl Lower member—Massive and cross bedded medium- to fine-grained silica cemented sandstone overlain by medium- to very fine-crystalline dolomite. Horodyski (1992) and Horodyski and others (1994) described Early Cambrian trace fossils and Late Proterozoic megafossils from this member in southern Nevada and concluded that the Cambrian-Precambrian boundary occurs within the lower member of the Wood Canyon Formation
<b>tlxw</b> Sedimentary rocks—Shale with lenses of quartz pebble sandstone overlain by tuff and a lacustrine sequence of interbedded limestone, shale, tuffaceous shale, and siltstone. The sandstone lenses grade into fanlomerate deposits. Burchfiel and Davis (1988) reported that a tuff from this unit yields a K-Ar age of 14.1 Ma	Czw Undivided Wood Canyon Formation
<b>tlxv</b> Volcanic rocks—Subangular to rounded boulders and cobbles of andesite, basalt, and latite in a calcareous tuff matrix. Groundmass feldspar and biotite from andesite flow breccias near the top of this unit yield concordant K-Ar ages of 12.6 (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988) and 12.1 Ma, respectively. Biotite from a latite dike near the base of this unit yields a K-Ar age of 13.8 Ma (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988)	
<b>tlxv</b> Volcanic rocks—Andesite, basalt, and latite flows including a foliated andesite porphyry flow with the same texture as an andesite porphyry flow in Kingston Wash. While lithic tuff (Tt) is locally interbedded with the volcanic rocks. Biotite and plagioclase from an andesite flow in this unit yield discordant K-Ar ages of 12.1 and 11.1 Ma, respectively (J.E. Spencer, written commun., 1981). Biotite from a latite flow at the west end of Black Butte, 3 km northeast of the map area, yields a K-Ar age of 13.8 Ma (D.H. Hambrick, written commun., 1988)	
<b>ta</b> Andesite dikes	
<b>ts</b> Sedimentary rocks—Shale with lenses of quartz pebble sandstone overlain by tuff and a lacustrine sequence of interbedded limestone, shale, tuffaceous shale, and siltstone. The sandstone lenses grade into fanlomerate deposits. Burchfiel and Davis (1988) reported that a tuff from this unit yields a K-Ar age of 14.1 Ma	
<b>trb</b> Carbonate-cemented breccia and tuffaceous arkosic sandstone. The breccia includes clasts of Cambrian quartzite, shale, and dolomite up to 8 cm in long dimension	
<b>tie</b> Iron veins (middle Miocene)—Magnetite-hematite veins in the Crystal Spring Formation north of Beck Canyon	
<b>grn</b> Granite of Kingston Peak (middle Miocene)—Hypabyssal gray biotite hornblende granite divided into (younger first) aplite, quartz porphyry, and feldspar porphyry facies. Rhyolite porphyry dikes and mafic xenoliths are common in the quartz porphyry and the feldspar porphyry facies; aplite dikes and quartz veins are common in all three facies. These rocks were originally mapped as Upper Cretaceous or Lower Tertiary Kingston Range monzonite porphyry by Hewitt (1948, 1956) and as Miocene (12.8 Ma) mafic admetite porphyry by Armstrong (1970)	
<b>tkqv</b> Quartz veins—Generally massive and nonmineralized, locally contain amethyst crystals	
<b>tkp</b> Aplite dikes	
<b>tkrd</b> Rhyolite porphyry dikes	
<b>tkad</b> Andesite dikes	
<b>tka</b> Aplite facies—Fine grained, equigranular apelite that contains 1-2 percent biotite	
<b>tkq</b> Quartz porphyry facies—Very fine grained biotite-hornblende granite porphyry characterized by subeuhedral to euhedral quartz phenocrysts up to 3 mm across, 0 to 6 percent mafic minerals, and micritic cavities. The quartz porphyry facies includes the feldspar porphyry facies east of Kingston Peak and grades into the apelite facies along the southern slope of the range; stopped blocks of gray monzonite occur in the quartz porphyry facies of the 12.4 Ma granite of Kingston Peak along the west side of the Kingston Range. These intrusive relations suggest that the age of the monzonite was reset during middle Miocene magmatism	
<b>tk</b> Feldspar porphyry facies—Fine- to medium-grained biotite hornblende granite porphyry characterized by feldspar phenocrysts up to 2 cm long. 4-5 percent mafic minerals, rapakivi textures, and micritic cavities. Biotite and hornblende from this facies yield concordant conventional K-Ar ages of 12.1 and 12.4 Ma, respectively; hornblende yields an <sup>40</sup> Ar/ <sup>39</sup> Ar age of 12.4 Ma	
<b>ts</b> Syenite of Peak 4811 (Tertiary?)—Very fine-grained alkali feldspar quartz syenite. Age uncertain but may be older than the granite of Kingston Peak and younger than the granite of Rabbit Holes Spring	
<b>tkrd</b> Rhyolite dikes (Tertiary or Cretaceous)—Felsic dikes, generally equigranular but locally pegmatitic, that intrude Stirling Quartzite, Johnnie Formation, and gneiss in the Mesquite Mountains	
<b>grn</b> Granite of Rabbit Holes Spring (Cretaceous?)—Root pendant of the Mesozoic Teutonia Batholith in the granite of Kingston Peak. Includes:	
<b>Krgm</b> Gray, medium-grained biotite monzonite with rare subeuhedral potassium feldspar phenocrysts up to 6 mm long. Although biotite from this unit yields a K-Ar age of 11.0 Ma, stopped blocks of the gray monzonite occur in the quartz porphyry facies of the 12.4 Ma granite of Kingston Peak along the west side of the Kingston Range. These intrusive relations suggest that the age of the monzonite was reset during middle Miocene magmatism	
<b>Khtm</b> Tan, medium- to coarse-grained monzonite; generally equigranular but locally porphyritic along the west side of Fossil Hill. Pegmatite dikes (Kp) and xenoliths of gray monzonite are common. Although modally and chemically similar to the Cretaceous Teutonia quartz monzonite, biotite from this unit yields a K-Ar age of 11.0 Ma; the K-Ar age was reset during middle Miocene magmatism and tectonic tectonics	
<b>pal</b> Miogeoclinal Rocks (Paleozoic and Late Proterozoic)—Large slide block(s) of undifferentiated Cordilleran miogeoclinal rocks that range in age and composition from Mississippian carbonate rocks to Late Proterozoic Stirling Quartzite	
<b>cn</b> Nopah Formation (Late Cambrian)—Massive, coarse-crystalline dolomite, characterized by alternating gray and white bands and minor chert beds and nodules, overlying laminated gray and brown shale and dolomitic siltstone interbedded with stringers of gray mottled dolomite. Hazzard (1937) and Cooper and others (1982) described Late Cambrian trilobites and brachiopods from the Nopah Formation in the southern Nopah Range. The incomplete section of the Nopah Formation in the Blacksmith Hills is 460 m thick	
<b>bnk</b> Bonanza King Formation (Late and Middle Cambrian)—Dolomite and limestone divided into the Banded Mountain and the Pappose Lake members. Map patterns of relatively undomed sections suggest that this formation is 1087 m thick within the map area	

**Stirling Quartzite (Late Proterozoic)**—Sandstone, siltstone, and minor dolomite divided into the upper, middle, and lower members. The Stirling Quartzite is 565 m thick in the northern Kingston Range (Wertz, 1983)

**Zau** Upper member—Gray and pink medium- to coarse-grained quartz sandstone with thin interbeds of pinkish to greenish siltstone and shale. The sandstone is characterized by laminar bedding and includes planar cross beds and truncated ripple marks. Pebbly sandstone with subrounded quartz clasts occur near the top of this member

**Zm** Middle member—Fining upward cycles of purple, gray, and yellowish brown micaceous siltstone and medium-grained feldspathic sandstone with rare interbeds of yellowish brown silty dolomite

**Zal** Lower member—White to brownish red coarse- to fine-grained quartzite, feldspathic, and arkosic sandstone with rare beds of angular quartz boulder conglomerate. The sandstone is characterized by laminar bedding and includes planar cross beds and truncated ripple marks. Well-rounded quartz pebbles are common near the base of this member

**Johnnie Formation (Late Proterozoic)**—Clastic and carbonate units informally divided into the Rainstorm, middle, and lower members (1978) reported that the Johnnie Formation is 388 m thick in the northern Kingston Range

**Zr** Rainstorm member—Maroon, gray, and tan siltstone and shale interbedded with gray dolomite, ilite limestone, and gray fine-grained quartzite near the top of this member. Orange weathered oolitic dolomite near the base of this member is an excellent regional marker bed

**Zm** Middle member—Orange, brown, and gray siltstone and micaceous shale interbedded with gray fine-grained sandstone and quartzite lenses and overlain by gray very fine-crystalline dolomite. The dolomite grades upsection into dolomitic quartzite overlain by sandy dolomite and includes occasional graywacke and green siltstone lenses. Altered tuff (Zt) occurs along the east side of the range

**Zl** Lower member—Intercalated felsic beds of tan and gray fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, gray siltstone, and gray very fine-crystalline sandy stromatolitic dolomite overlain by brown cross-bedded quartz sandstone with a few thin beds of limestone, sandy dolomite, and quartz or chert pebble conglomerate. Member is capped by gray algal dolomite with seams of black chert. Cloud and Semikhatov (1969) described *Linella* and *Bosonin* stromatolites from the lower member in the southern Nopah Range. Bascon (1978) reported that both stromatolites are indicative of a Vendian (670–675 Ma; Krylov and Semikhatov, 1978) age

**Zi** Undivided Johnnie Formation

**Zn** Noonday Johnnie Formation (Middle Proterozoic)—Laminated pinkish gray and tan very fine-crystalline dolomite with abundant concentrically banded algal mounds overlain by tan sandy dolomite with fewer algal mounds. The banded algal mounds are cut by near-vertical fluid expulsion tubes filled with dolomite, quartz, or clay. The upper mounds are overlain by fine- to medium-crystalline dolomite and quartz sandstone; the abundance of sandstone increases upsection and is gradational into the Johnnie Formation. Red siltstone and orange-weathering dolomite are common between the algal mounds in the northeastern part of the range; erosional clasts of Noonday Dolomite mixed with lichen formation (Zbn) are present in the southwest corner of the map. The Noonday Dolomite is 240 m thick in the western Kingston Range (Ken Werner, written commun., 1989). Wright and others (1978) reported that banded algal mounds in the Noonday Dolomite at its type locality in the southern Nopah Range resemble Late Riparian (675–680 Ma; Krylov and Semikhatov, 1978) *Dzhardinia* algal mounds

**Kingston Peak Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**—A thick siliclastic sequence informally divided into the upper, middle, and the lower members at its redefined type locality northeast of Beck Spring. Susan Hayes (written commun., 1985) reported that the Kingston Peak Formation is 514 m thick at this new type locality; it is 350 m thick north of Crystal Spring (Graft, 1985) and about 3,000 m thick along the eastern flank of the range (B.W. Troxel, unpublished data, 1990). Pierce and others (1977) and Pierce and Cloud (1978) described spheroid, filament-like, and composite nonfossiliferous in oolites from the Kingston Peak Formation, Beck Spring Dolomite, and the Crystal Spring Formation in the northern Kingston Range and concluded that these nonfossiliferous, as well as algae described by Licari (1978) from the Beck Spring Dolomite, are Middle Riparian (660–1500 Ma; Krylov and Semikhatov, 1978) in age

**Yku** Upper member—Massive monolithic megabreccia overlain by interbedded sequences of conglomerate, sandstone, shale, and diamicite. The megabreccia consists of angular, poorly sorted megablocks of Beck Spring Dolomite (Yku), Crystal Spring Formation (Ycu), diabase (Yd), and gneiss (Ygn) up to 1.5 km long in a green fine-grained sandstone and siltstone matrix. The megabreccia overlies a gray oolitic cherty dolomite (Ykuo) and is overlain by laminated gray green siltstone. The megabreccia grades upsection into interbedded conglomerate, arkosic and pebble sandstone, and laminated siltstone. These diastolic rocks thicken and fine to the south where they consist of graded cycles of

conglomerate, diamicite, sandstone, and siltstone. Tuff, pumice, and volcanic lithic fragments are interbedded with the megabreccia unit in the eastern Kingston Range. Bedded iron formations occur within the siltstone intervals

**Ym** Middle member—Massive dark gray and brown open framework conglomerate with clasts of diabase, Beck Spring Dolomite, Crystal Spring Formation, and gneiss up to 15 cm long in a fine- to medium-grained sandstone or limy mudstone matrix

**Yd** Lower member—Massive to thinly bedded green siltstone and fine-grained arkosic sandstone. Siltstone locally includes laminated shale

**Yb** Beck Spring Dolomite (Middle Proterozoic)—Chert-forming, laminated, gray medium- to coarse-crystalline dolomite that becomes more massive upsection. Finely laminated dolomite in the lower part of this formation includes truncated algal mounds and is overlain by way to wrinkled, coarsely laminated dolomite characterized by selectively aligned chert nodules, rare interbeds of granule sandstone, and lenses of shale. Marian (1979) reported that the Beck Spring Dolomite is 485 m thick at its type locality north of Beck Spring. Cloud and others (1969) recognized six types of filament-like and globular stromatolites in thin sections of the Beck Spring Dolomite east of Horse Thief Springs. Licari (1978) described and named the filament-like algae *Beckspringia* and the most common globular algae *Maclosporina kingstonensis* and *Corygocella* *troueti*

**Crystal Spring Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**—Conglomerate, arkosic and feldspathic sandstone, siltstone, shale, stromatolitic limestone, dolomite, and chert divided into the upper, middle, and the lower members. The Crystal Spring Formation is 1,210 m thick at its type locality near Crystal Spring (Roberts, 1976; Maud, 1979). Unfortunately, the lower member is in fault contact with gneiss at its type locality. Roberts (1974) described a depositional contact between gneiss and the lower member west of the Escalante Mine. Here, the lower member is thinner than at its type locality; however, all units of the Crystal Spring Formation are present in the same stratigraphic sequence

**You** Upper member—Five laminated dolomite intervals divide this member into six clastic units of gray and brown siltstone interbedded with gray fine- to coarse-grained quartzite or arkosic sandstone. The gray very fine- to coarse-crystalline dolomite contains unique algal structures and locally oolitic chert beds or nodules. The sandstone generally becomes more arkosic and coarser grained upsection; rare beds of green chert conglomerate occur near the base of this member

**Ycm** Middle member—Coarsening-upward sequence of siltstone and shale, calcareous quartzose sandstone, and impure shaly limestone that grades into cycles of gray and brown very fine-crystalline dolomite alternating with interbedded gray siliceous dolomite and brown chert. The siltstone, sandstone, and limestone sequence is metamorphosed to meta-siltstone and calc-silicate rocks near contacts with diabase sills. Talc-tronolite zones (Tt) occur in dolomite near intrusive contacts with diabase. The dolomite cycles are overlain by algal limestone with cycles of morphologically different stromatolites. The top of the carbonate-chert member is marked by variegated massive chert characterized by brown, dark and black bands. Roberts (1982) reported that the algal limestone contains *Corygonia* and *Dactylostromatolites*. The coexistence of these stromatolites is considered a typical Middle Ripian assemblage (Walter, 1977)

**Yd** Lower member—Basal conglomerate and cycles of cross bedded pale green conglomerate and arkosic sandstone overlain by cross bedded feldspathic sandstone. The basal conglomerate consists of pebbles to boulder clasts of white quartz, metaquartzite, and gneiss in a very coarse-grained feldspathic sandstone and arkosic matrix. The feldspathic sandstone consists of red to purple, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone with shale partings grading upsection into fining upward cycles of sandstone, siltstone, and shale. The top of this member is marked by massive purple or red silty to sandy mudstone

**Yc** Undivided Crystal Spring Formation

**Yd** Diabase (Middle Proterozoic)—Dark green medium-grained (locally fine- and coarse-grained) ophiolite to subophiolite diabase sills and dikes in the Crystal Spring Formation and gneiss. Abundant deuteric alteration minerals constitute 50–80 percent of the rock and include saussuritized plagioclase, hornblende, actinolite, epidote, sericite, biotite, and chlorite. Chlorite and an undifferentiated secondary mineral with rims of amphibole fibers form pseudomorphs after olivine. The diabase sills in the Kingston Range range from 10 to 270 m thick. Baddleyite from a diabase sill near Beck Spring yields a U-Pb age of 1,087.5 Ma (Heaman and Grotzinger, 1992)

**Xgn** Gneiss (Early Proterozoic)—Pink coarse-grained micaceous granitic gneiss cut by numerous pegmatite dikes and milky quartz veins. Granitic gneiss in the Kingston Range is characterized by quartz and feldspar porphyroblasts; brecciated gneiss at Horse Thief Springs contains blue amphibole. Green schist occurs with granitic gneiss west of Jupiter Hill. Mylonitic gneiss in the Mesquite Mountains occurs within low-angle shear zones and is gradational into quartz-feldspathic gneiss. Stratigraphic and geochronologic data

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This map is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards or with the North American Stratigraphic Code. Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



**GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE KINGSTON RANGE, SOUTHERN DEATH VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

By  
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2000



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